

Act 16

To the Spring of Life





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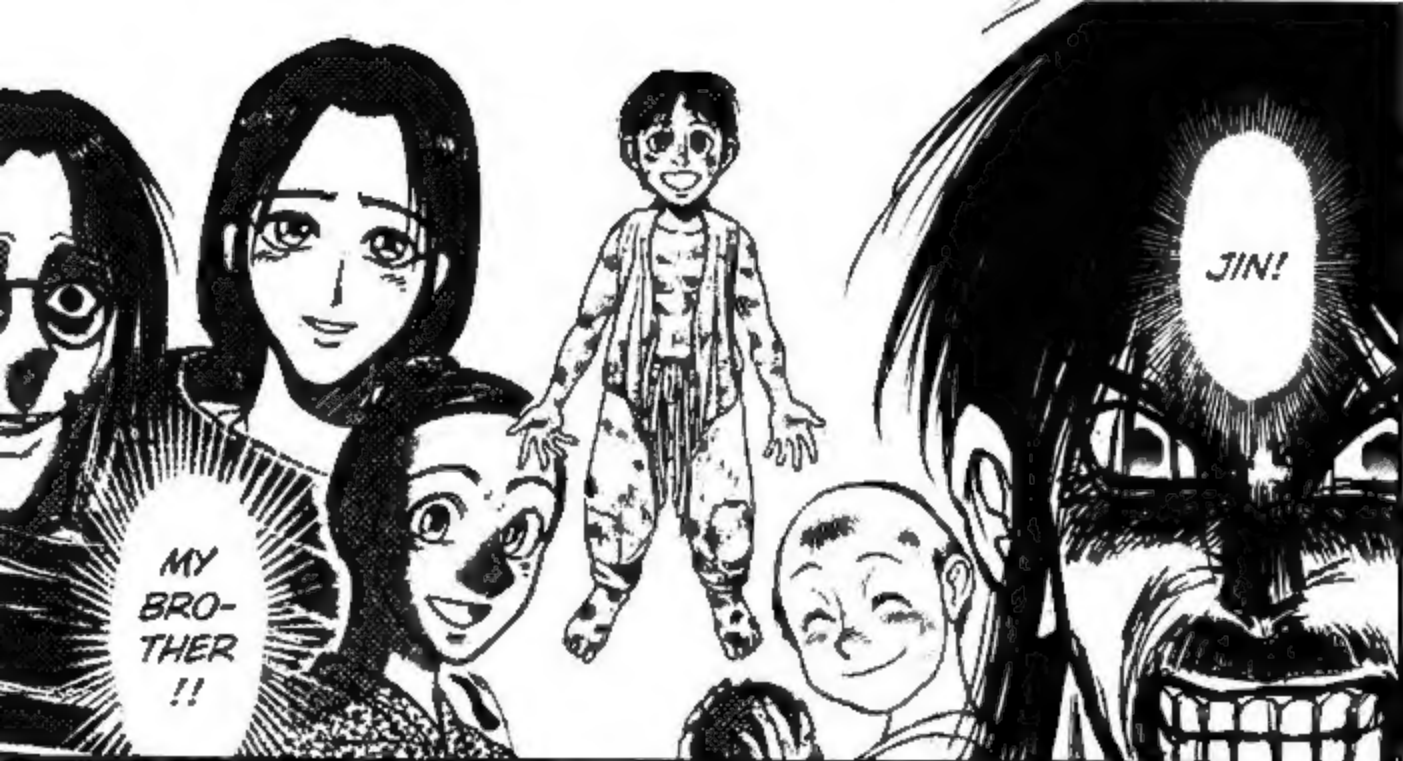




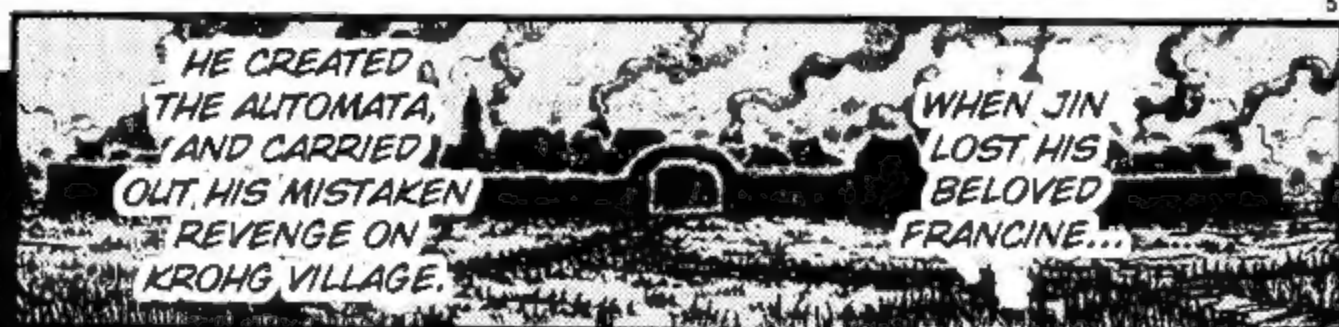
IS IT
REALLY
TRUE
?!

IS IT
TRUE
?!





5



I BELIEVED IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH WHAT HE HAD STARTED...



BUT 29 YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE I LAST PARTED WITH HIM...





GUEHHH...
Y-YOU
GOT ME
...



COM-
MITTED...
A GRAVE
SIN.

AND
SO...
I...



MING-HAI, BE
CAREFUL! HE
DIVES INTO
THE GROUND
AND THEN
ATTACKS FROM
SOMEWHERE
UNEXPECTED!



WHAT
THEY
DID
TO MY
SON.

WO-
MAN
...
I'M
SOR-
RY.

I WILL
NEVER
FORGET
...



IN
YOUR
HEARTS.

I TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF THE
DESIRE FOR
REVENGE...



I USED THE POOR
SURVIVORS OF
KROHG VILLAGE TO
CARRY OUT MY
RESPONSIBILITY.



WILL
BE PRE-
SERVED.

A HUMAN
MIND
DISSOLVED
INTO IT...



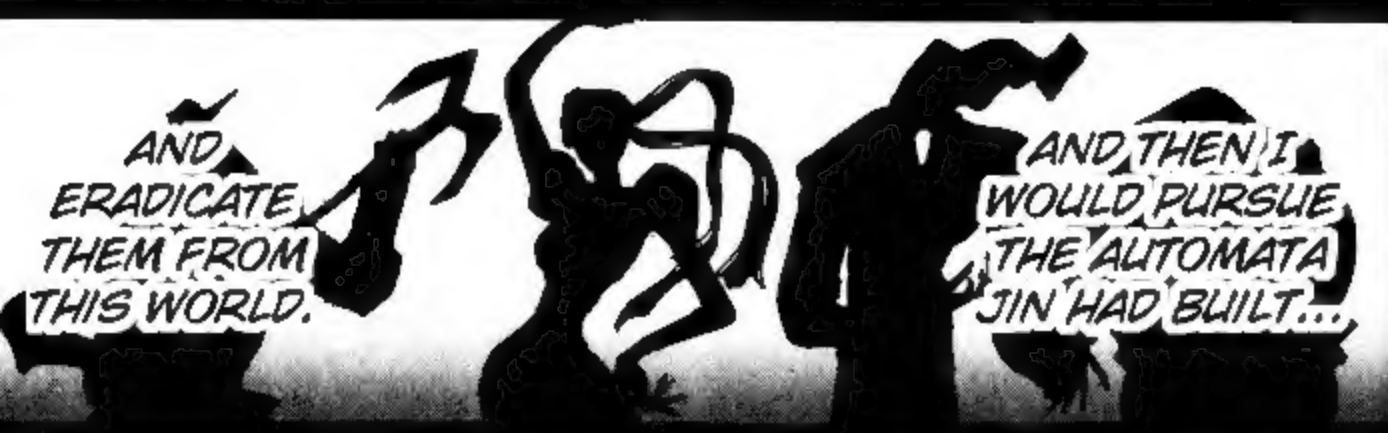
BESIDES
CURING ALL
DISEASES,
THIS WATER
HAS ANOTHER
POWER.

AQUA
VITAE...
I HAD
CREATED
THIS ELIXIR
FOR
FRANCINE...



AND
CONTROL
THE HEARTS
OF THE
VILLAGERS
WHO DRANK
IT.

I WOULD
DISSOLVE
INTO IT...



AND
ERADICATE
THEM FROM
THIS WORLD.

AND THEN I
WOULD PURSUE
THE AUTOMATA
JIN HAD BUILT...



THERE
IS NO
OTHER
WAY...

BUT I
AM TOO
OLD.



YOU HAD
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
THIS. TO BE
USED BY ME
IS TOO CRUEL
A FATE...

I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY,
VILLAGERS...



THOSE
WHO DIE
BY THEIR
OWN HANDS.

SINCE THE
GOD IN WHOM
YOU BELIEVED
HATES MOST
OF ALL...

YOU COM-
MITTED THE
GREATEST
SIN AGAINST
HEAVEN,
DIDN'T YOU?

FRAN-
CINE...

YOU
PROVED
YOUR
FEELINGS
FOR ME
...

AND
BY SO
DOING
...

IT MUST
BE LONELY
ALL BY
YOURSELF
IN HELL.

I'VE
KEPT YOU
WAITING,
HAVEN'T
I.

...
FRANCINE
...

I'LL BE
SENT
STRAIGHT
THERE
TOO.

FOR
COMMITTING
SUCH
HERESY
...



BUT,
FRAN-
CINE
...



BUT
...



MANY
CEN-
TURIES
...

EVEN
AFTER
MANY
DECADES
...



HEAVEN
WILL NOT
FORGIVE
US...

9



I
LOVED
YOU.

FROM THE
BOTTOM OF
MY HEART...





HEE
HEE
HEE,
TAKE
THIIS
...!



MING-
HAI!!



...I
STOLE THE
WOMAN MY
BROTHER
LOVED, AND
CHANGED
HIM.

≡/ユウウ



I TRACKED
HER DOWN,
AND DROVE
HER TO HER
DEATH...

AND...
I DRAGGED
OTHER PEOPLE
INTO A DISPUTE
BETWEEN
BROTHERS,
AND USED
THEM...





I WAS
ALLOWED
ONLY ONE
THING.

NOR
DEATH
...

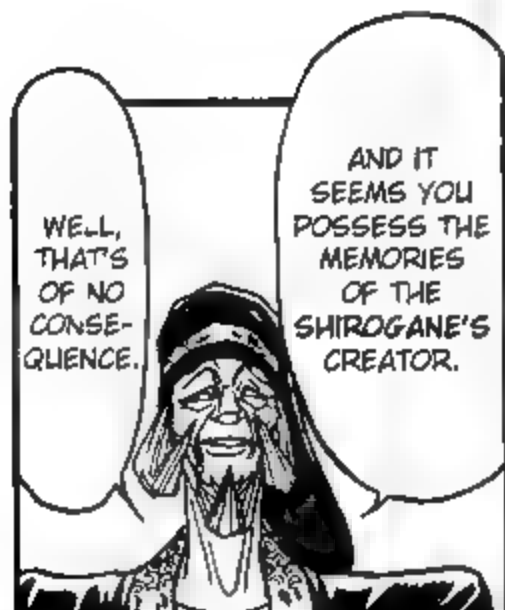
NEITHER
PEACE
...

HEAVEN
PERMITS
SINNERS
NOTHING.



MY
HATRED
...

FOR
YOU
AUTO-
MATA.



WELL,
THAT'S
OF NO
CONSE-
QUENCE.

AND IT
SEEMS YOU
POSSESS THE
MEMORIES
OF THE
SHIROGANE'S
CREATOR.



SO
YOU
WERE
NARUMI.

OHO
...



IT HAS EVER
BEEN THUS...
DESPITE OUR
PERFECTION, WE
HAVE ALWAYS
FALLEN BEHIND
HUMANS CAPABLE
OF FIGHTING WITH
THEIR BARE HANDS,
OR WITH THE AID
OF PUPPETS...



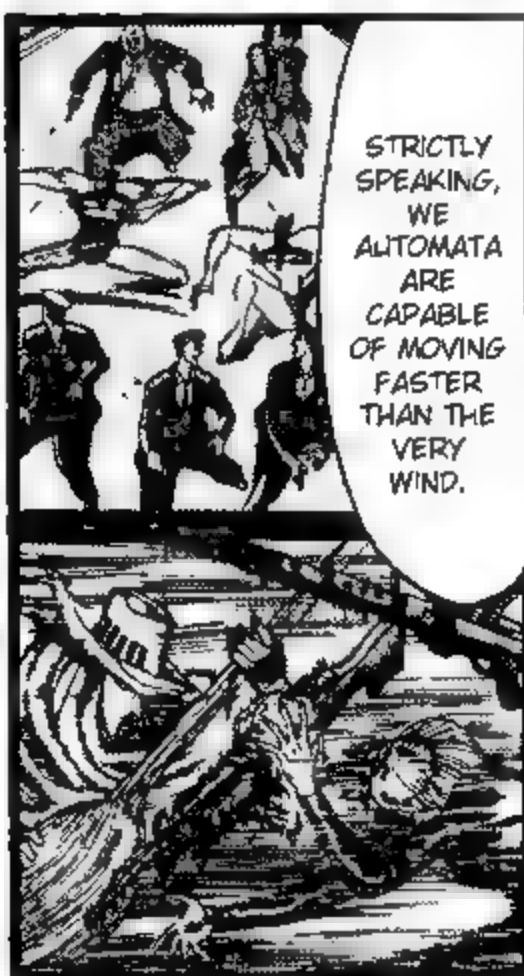
CHINA
HOU, YOU
ARE TRULY
WORTH-
LESS.

BE THAT
AS IT
MAY...



THAT IS
YOUR
LOT IN
LIFE.

THAT'S
RIGHT...
YET YOU ARE
POWERLESS
IN THE FACE
OF UNARMED
HUMANS.

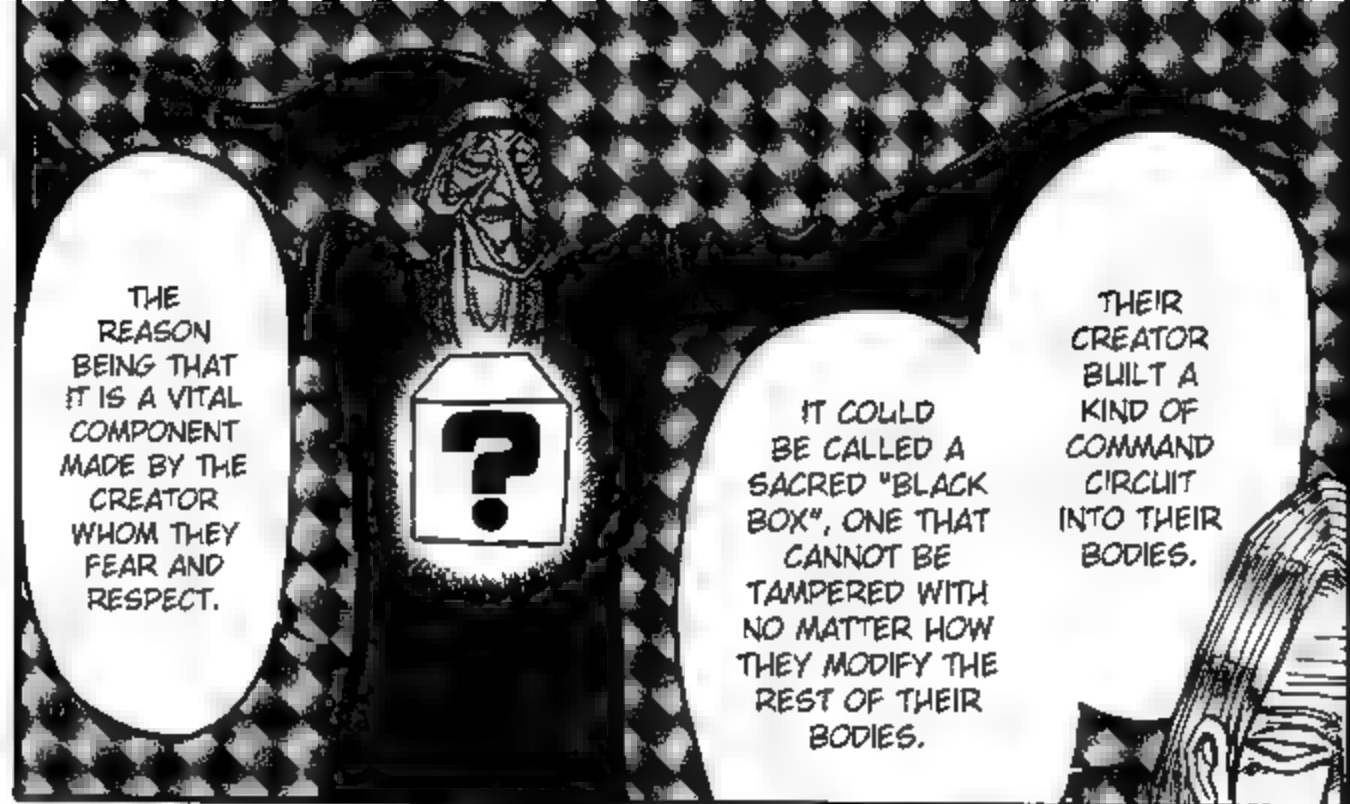


STRICTLY
SPEAKING,
WE
AUTOMATA
ARE
CAPABLE
OF MOVING
FASTER
THAN THE
VERY
WIND.



LUCILLE
...

WHAT...
DO YOU
MEAN?



THE
REASON
BEING THAT
IT IS A VITAL
COMPONENT
MADE BY THE
CREATOR
WHOM THEY
FEAR AND
RESPECT.

IT COULD
BE CALLED A
SACRED "BLACK
BOX", ONE THAT
CANNOT BE
TAMPERED WITH
NO MATTER HOW
THEY MODIFY THE
REST OF THEIR
BODIES.

THEIR
CREATOR
BUILT A
KIND OF
COMMAND
CIRCUIT
INTO THEIR
BODIES.



"THE AUDIENCE
WILL SEE THE
APPEARANCE
AND ACTIONS OF
CLOWNS, AND
COME TO FEAR
THEM FOR
THE FIRST
TIME."

IN
OTHER
WORDS
...

"YOU WERE
CREATED TO
BRING TERROR
TO THE HUMANS
OF KROHG VILLAGE
IN THE FORM OF
CLOWNS."

THIS
COMPO-
NENT
SAYS...



WE
INSTINCTIVELY
EVALUATE
AS SUCH...

BUT
WHAT
DOES
IT
MATTER
?

ANYONE
WITHOUT
MECHANICAL
WEAPONS
TO
ATTACK.



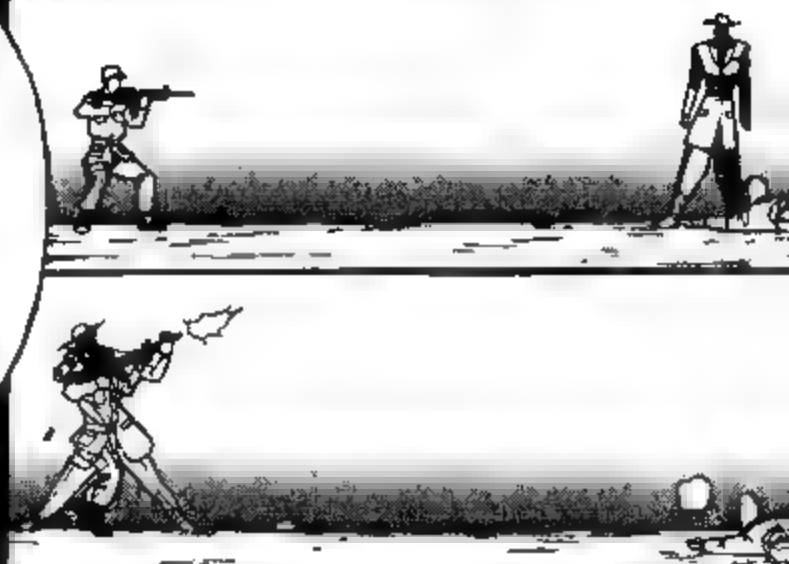
THE DOLLS
MUST NOT
MOVE TOO
QUICKLY TO
BE SEEN
BY THEIR
EYES.

AN
AUDI-
ENCE
...?

IN
FRONT OF
HUMANS
ACTING IN
THE ROLE
OF AN
AUDIENCE
...

BUT AS
FOR OTHER
HUMANS, THEY
IMAGINE THEY
CAN DEFEAT US
WITH GUNS
OR AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS.

IT'S TRUE THAT
OUR INSTINCT
PREVENTS US
FROM REGARDING
YOU SHIROGANE
AS ARMED WHEN
YOU HAVE YOUR
MAKESHIFT
PUPPETS...



THE MORE
ADVANCED
THE WEAPON,
THE FASTER
WE MOVE.
NO HUMAN
CAN DEFEAT
US.

HAHAHA!
IMPOS-
SIBLE!



THAT
SO-CALLED
"WEAKNESS"
WILL SOON
BE NO
MORE.

UN-
FOR-
TUN-
ATELY
FOR YOU
...

KUKUKU
...
LUCILLE
...



AS
LONG
AS YOU
HAVE THAT
WEAKNESS,
WE'LL
FIND OUR
CHANCE
SOMEDAY.

...FOR
THE TIME
BEING.
HOW-
EVER
...



CAN
YOU
MOVE?

CHINA
HOW, YOU
USELESS
CREA-
TURE.

WHAT?





HLIH
?!

D-DAMN...
THAT'S
WHERE
MASTER
IS.



IN THAT
CASE, GO
FOLLOW
THE PATH
BY WHICH
NARUMI
DESCEN-
DED.



Hahaha!

Y-YES
...!
MASTER
PANTA-
LONE
...!



IT
WAS IN
THE SHIRT
BELONGING
TO THAT
MAN OVER
THERE.

JUST
NOW I
HAD THE
CHANCE
TO READ
THIS.



WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO SAY,
PANTALONE?

15



DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS.
WHAT ON EARTH
COULD LET YOU
DO THAT?



TO
EXPEL THIS
WEAKNESS
FROM OUR
BODIES.

ACCORDING
TO THAT,
LUCILLE,
THERE IS
A WAY...



THAT'S...
MASTER'S BOOK.
WHEN HE READ
FROM IT... MING-
HAI... STARTED...
ACTING STRANGE...









COME FORTH, AQUA VITAE!



THIS IS A NICE CREVICE. IT'LL DO JUST FINE.



IN THIS WATER THAT MELTS ANYTHING.

WILL DISSOLVE AND DIE ...



EVEN MY IMMORTAL BODY...

18



HEY... WAIT UP!

WE MUST HURRY.

THE AQUA VITAE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT FALL INTO THEIR HANDS.

MASTER SHIROGANE, IF PANTALONE WAS SPEAKING THE TRUTH...

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

notes: In the previous chapter, Bai Yin mentions asking his brother on a journey to create the Automata; he should instead have said that he lured him down the path of doing so, as he did in this chapter. It's not a huge difference, but I'll try to get a new version of the chapter up soon.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.